

## Message Text

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15

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01

SP-02 /039 W

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R 191410Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4329

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LUXEMBOURG 0194

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, LU

SUBJECT: CIVIL AVIATION: RUMORED FUSION OF KLM, SABENA

AND LUXAIR

1. THE RUMORS OF A POSSIBLE FUSION SURFACED IN THE PRESS MARCH 19 WHEN MARCEL MART, MINISTER OF TRANSPORT, REVEALED THAT HE HAD EXCHANGED IDEAS ON A STRICTLY PERSONAL BASIS WITH HIS BELGIAN AND DUTCH COLLEAGUES. ACCORDING TO MART, THIS UNOFFICIAL DISCUSSION DEALT WITH A RATIONALIZATION OF AIR ROUTES RATHER THAN WITH A FUSION OF THE THREE AIRLINES. MART ADDED THAT THE MAIN ELEMENTS OF ANY AGREEMENT WOULD HAVE TO BE EXPLORED, IN THE FIRST INSTANCE, BY THE TWO INTERNATIONAL AIRLINES, KLM AND SABENA, AND ONLY LATER WITH LUXAIR.

2. PIERRE HAMER, GOL DIRECTOR OF CIVIL AVIATION, AND ROGER SIETZEN, DIRECTOR OF LUXAIR, ADMITTED TO ECON OFFICER THAT THE SUBJECT OF A FUSION OF THE THREE BENELUX AIRLINES, KLM, SABENA AND LUXAIR, HAD BEEN RECENTLY DISCUSSED INFORMALLY BY THE BENELUX MINISTERS OF TRANSPORT. BOTH HAMER AND SIETZEN DENIED THAT ANY FORMAL DISCUSSION OR NEGOTIATIONS HAVE TAKEN PLACE OR ARE SCHEDULED, INVOLVING

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LUXAIR AT LEAST. THEY WERE SKEPTICAL ABOUT THE

POSSIBILITIES OF SERIOUS NEGOTIATIONS ON FUSION WITH LUXAIR.  
SIETZEN SAID THAT LUXAIR MIGHT GAIN CERTAIN ADVANTAGES FROM  
A FUSION OF SERVICES, SUCH AS COMBINING OFFICES IN EUROPEAN  
CITIES SERVED BY LUXAIR AND KLM OR SABENA, BUT HE SAW  
NO GREAT ADVANTAGES FOR LUXAIR IN ANY FUSION SINCE LUXAIR  
DOES NOT COMPETE DIRECTLY WITH EITHER KLM OR SABENA.  
HE THOUGHT THAT ANY IMPORTANT NEGOTIATIONS WOULD HAVE TO  
BE CONCLUDED FIRST BETWEEN KLM AND SABENA. ONLY THEN,  
MIGHT LUXAIR SERIOUSLY CONSIDER SUCH NEGOTIATIONS.

3. THE ABOVE REACTIONS TO THE FUSION PROPOSAL WERE  
CONFIRMED BY MFA SOURCES AS WELL. FARKAS

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** CIVIL AVIATION, AIR ROUTES, AVIATION AGREEMENTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 19 MAR 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** MorefiRH  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**To:** STATE THE HAGUE  
**Type:** TE  
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